

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1946

Introduced by Senator McPherson

February 24, 2000

An act to amend Section 16605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to social services, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1946, as amended, McPherson. Kinship support services.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to conduct a Kinship Support Services Program that is a grants-in-aid program providing startup and expansion funds for local kinship support services programs that provide community-based family support services to kinship caregivers and the children placed in their homes by the juvenile court or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency. Under existing law, the counties participating in the program must meet specified requirements, including the requirement that 40% or more of dependent children in the county be in relative care placements.

~~This bill would revise the requirements for participating counties by requiring that 25% or more of dependent children in the county be in relative care placement, and would~~

prescribe a priority for ~~those counties in certain~~
~~circumstances~~ county participation in the program.

The bill would provide, however, that a county shall not become ineligible for grant funds due to a reduction in the percentage of relative care placements.

The bill would also require the department to contract for a study of the cost and benefits, and the effectiveness, of the Kinship Support Services Program.

This bill would appropriate ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$2,775,000 from the General Fund to the department to fund the Kinship Support Services Program, *including the study required by the bill*, and would appropriate \$225,000 from the General Fund to the department to fund specified technical assistance to be provided to the program.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16605 of the Welfare and
 2 Institutions Code is amended to read:

3 16605. (a) The department shall, subject to the
 4 availability of funds appropriated therefor, conduct a
 5 Kinship Support Services Program that is a grants-in-aid
 6 program providing startup and expansion funds for local
 7 kinship support services programs that provide
 8 community-based family support services to relative
 9 caregivers and the children placed in their homes by the
 10 juvenile court or who are at risk of dependency or
 11 delinquency. Relatives with children in voluntary
 12 placements may access services, at the discretion of the
 13 county.

14 (b) The Kinship Support Services Program shall
 15 create a public-private partnership. A combination of
 16 federal, state, county, and private sector resources shall
 17 finance the establishment and ongoing operation of the
 18 program.

19 (c) The counties participating in the program shall
 20 meet the following requirements:

1 (1) Have ~~25~~ 40 percent or more of dependent children
2 in relative care placements.

3 (2) Have a demonstrated capacity for collaboration
4 and interagency coordination.

5 (3) Have a viable plan for ongoing financial support of
6 the local kinship support services program.

7 (4) Utilize relative caregivers as employees of the
8 program.

9 (5) Have strong and viable public or private agencies
10 to operate the program.

11 (d) The Kinship Support Services Program shall
12 demonstrate the use of supportive services provided to
13 relative caregivers and children placed in their homes
14 using a community-based kinship support services model.
15 This model shall provide services to relative caregivers
16 that are aimed at helping to ensure permanent family
17 kinship placements for children who have been placed
18 with them by the juvenile court, and to provide family
19 support services that will eliminate the need for juvenile
20 court jurisdiction and the provision of services by the
21 county welfare department.

22 (e) The program shall provide family support services
23 appropriate for the target populations. These services
24 may include, but are not limited to, the following:

25 (1) Assessment and case management.

26 (2) Social services referral and intervention aimed at
27 maintaining the kinship family unit, for example, housing,
28 homemaker services, respite care, legal services, and day
29 care.

30 (3) Transportation for medical care and educational
31 and recreational activities.

32 (4) Information and referral services.

33 (5) Individual and group counseling in the area of
34 parent-child relationships and group conflict.

35 (6) Counseling and referral services aimed at
36 promoting permanency, including kinship adoption and
37 guardianship.

38 (7) Tutoring and mentoring.

39 (f) The Edgewood Center for Children and Families
40 in San Francisco *or any other appropriate agency or*

1 *individual approved by the department in consultation*
2 *with the Statewide Kinship Advisory Committee shall*
3 *provide technical assistance to the Kinship Support*
4 *Services Program and shall facilitate the sharing of*
5 *information and resources among the local programs.*

6 (g) For the 2001–02 fiscal year, the department shall
7 give priority in the grants-in-aid program to counties that
8 have participated in the Kinship Support Services
9 Program prior to the 2001–02 fiscal year or to counties that
10 have received technical assistance and training related to
11 that program, but no funding for program services.

12 (h) *A county shall not become ineligible for grant*
13 *funds due to a reduction in the percentage of relative care*
14 *placements.*

15 SEC. 2. *The State Department of Social Services shall*
16 *contract for a study on the cost and benefits, and the*
17 *effectiveness, of the Kinship Support Services Program,*
18 *provided for pursuant to Section 16605 of the Welfare and*
19 *Institutions Code. The department may utilize up to two*
20 *hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) of the*
21 *appropriation made by subdivision (a) of Section 3 of this*
22 *act for the purposes of the study required by this section.*

23 SEC. 3. In addition to any other funds appropriated
24 for purposes of Section 16605 of the Welfare and
25 Institutions Code, the sum of three million ~~two hundred~~
26 ~~twenty-five thousand dollars (\$3,225,000)~~ dollars
27 (\$3,000,000) is appropriated as follows:

28 (a) The sum of ~~three million dollars (\$3,000,000)~~ two
29 *million seven hundred seventy-five thousand dollars*
30 *(\$2,775,000)* is hereby appropriated from the General
31 Fund to the State Department of Social Services for the
32 purposes of funding the Kinship Support Services
33 Program provided for pursuant to Section 16605 of the
34 Welfare and Institutions Code.

35 (b) The sum of two hundred twenty-five thousand
36 dollars (\$225,000) is hereby appropriated from the
37 General Fund to the State Department of Social Services
38 for funding the technical assistance to be provided to the
39 Kinship Support Services Program by the Edgewood
40 Center for Children and Families *or any other*

1 *appropriate agency or individual approved by the*
2 *department in consultation with the Statewide Kinship*
3 *Advisory Committee,* for purposes of Section 16605 of the
4 Welfare and Institutions Code.

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